

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 28, 2005. Claims 1-11 have been canceled. New claims 12 and 13 have been added. Reconsideration and favorable action in this application is respectfully requested.

The now canceled claims 1-11 had been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoagland in view of Markey et al. New claims 12 and 13 are now presented to clearly define over the previously cited references, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

The present pet shelter includes multiple interlocking members which are fastened with a tab/aperture type locking system. Each of the members include an interface lip along edges thereof in order to overlap the tab/aperture lock and thereby present a continuous exterior surface of the pet shelter, such that the locking system is not visible from the exterior of the shelter.

The previously cited references include locking systems which are visible from the exterior of the enclosure. Unlike the present invention, no overlapping structure is provided to cover the locking system of a tab/aperture type locking system. This overlapping structure provides a pet shelter that is resistant to wind and prevents rain from entering the interior of the pet shelter between the interconnected members. It is therefore respectfully submitted that new claims 12 and 13 clearly distinguish over the previously cited references, and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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